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Rep . Pitts: Cloning is wrong, the Senate must act

Washington—Congressman Joe Pitts (R, PA-16) reacted today to the successful cloning of mature human embryos in South Korea.

“Human life is precious. Its value, for the vast majority of people, has very little to do with hard science. A human embryo is alive, a child in his or her earliest stages of development. Every one of us was an embryo once.

“Cloning human beings is wrong. It is unethical to tinker with human life. Justifying it by promising to kill the embryos before they grow into babies is completely wrong. If tinkering with life is unethical, the taking of human lives is even worse. Millions of Americans believe it is murder.

“In politics and warfare we learned long ago that the ends do not justify the means. It is time that science learned the same lesson.

“It is absolutely urgent that the United States Senate pass the Human Cloning Prohibition Act before this unethical science comes to our shores.”

The Human Cloning Prohibition Act (H.R. 534) was passed by the House of Representatives by a vote of 241 to 155 on February 27, 2003. The Senate has not taken it up for a vote. Similar bans exist in some states, such as one in Michigan that calls for a \$1 million fine and ten years in prison.

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